

Glossary: Treaty on European Union

Statistics Explained

The **Treaty on European Union**, abbreviated as **TEU** and also called **Treaty of Maastricht**, was signed in Maastricht on 7 February 1992 and entered into force on 1 November 1993. It represents a new stage in European integration since it opens the way to political integration, by creating a **European Union** consisting of three pillars:

- the European Communities;
- Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP);
- police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters (JHA).

The Treaty introduces the concept of European citizenship, reinforces the powers of the **European Parliament** and launches **economic and monetary union**. Besides, the EEC becomes the European Community (EC).

Amendments were made to the Treaty of Maastricht by:

- the **Treaty of Amsterdam** (1997), which increased the powers of the Union by creating a Community employment policy, transferring to the Communities some of the areas which were previously subject to intergovernmental cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs, introducing measures aimed at bringing the Union closer to its citizens and enabling closer cooperation between certain Member States (enhanced cooperation). It also extended the codecision procedure and qualified majority voting and simplified and renumbered the articles of the Treaties;
- the **Treaty of Nice** (2001), which essentially dealt with the institutional problems linked to **enlargement** left unresolved by the Treaty of Amsterdam: the make-up of the **European Commission**, the weighting of votes in the **Council** and the extension of the areas of qualified majority voting; it also simplified the rules on use of the enhanced cooperation procedure and made the judicial system more effective.
- the **Treaty of Lisbon** (2007), which gave legal personality to the **European Union**, abolished the previous pillar system, increased the power of the **European Parliament** and involvement of national parliaments in the legislative process of the Union, further extended areas of qualified majority voting (to be changed in 2014 into double majority voting), introduced functions of a President of the European Council and a High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, included the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union into legally binding acts, and introduced the European Citizens' initiative and the ability of a state to voluntarily withdraw from the EU.

Further information

- [Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union \(full text\)](#)
- [EUROPA - Summaries of EU legislation - Treaty of Maastricht on European Union](#)

Related concepts

- [European Union \(EU\)](#)
- [Treaties of Rome](#)

Source

- [Treaty of Maastricht on European Union](#)